



# 6th District Updates

Volume 1, Issue 1

**Customer Service  
Above and Beyond**

Winter 2002/2003

## FEAREY'S FIRST EDITION

### City has New E-Mail Address

The City of Wichita has a new and improved e-mail address. It is [Wichita.gov](mailto:Wichita.gov). To reach someone at the city directly, just type in his or her first initial, last name @ [Wichita.gov](mailto:Wichita.gov).

**Stop by and Visit your  
Neighborhood City Hall**

Evergreen Neighborhood  
City Hall  
2700 N. Woodland  
Suite D  
Wichita, Ks 67204  
Phone: 316-303-8042  
Fax: 316-303-8049  
Email:  
[sfearey@wichita.gov](mailto:sfearey@wichita.gov)  
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Sometimes it is truly amazing how a seemingly insurmountable problem can be solved when people work together for the good of their community. A case in point is Wichita's new Day Reporting Center. My first involvement with this was when I received frantic word during my campaign in 2001 that a center for criminals was going to be placed in the Twin Lakes Shopping Center. The Center would be for parolees who were being given one last chance before being returned to prison. Although these people would be wearing ankle bracelets that would be tracked through a global positioning system, there was much fear on the part of area residents that these parolees would be wondering through their neighborhoods and could be a danger. City staff, instead of just digging in their heels and saying that it would go into Twin Lakes or that Wichita wouldn't accept the center at all, to work with the people from Community Solutions (the firm hired to run the center) and find a place that would be acceptable to the community.

Without getting into everything that went on in the intervening months, I just want to say that the outcome of the many negotiations and meetings is that the Wichita Day Reporting Center has a home and is open for business. They are now located in a brand new building at 703 E. 21<sup>st</sup> Street North. This is a very industrial location across from the old stockyards. It has easy access to I-135 and to Broadway. The parolees have to take the most direct route to the center and should not be traveling through many neighborhoods to report. The center officially opened on December 2. They are currently serving 28 and have discharged 7 who broke the rules. The program lasts for 90 days for each offender and helps them not only serve out their parole time, but also has programs to help keep them from having to reenter the prison system. Currently 76% of the clients are employed and to date they have finished 430 hours of community service to non-profit organizations in the city. Each client is required to do 50 hours of community service during the 90-day period.

The Wichita Community Correction Advisory Board and the new Offender Reentry Task Force that was recently appointed will both be invited to tour the facility and learn more about its programs. I have been invited to serve on the Center's Advisory Board. When this issue first came to my attention, it was hard to not look at it as a losing situation for the citizens of the 6<sup>th</sup> District. After attending the first Advisory Board meeting yesterday, I am extremely optimistic that this is a program that will be good for our community. It will serve those who are trying to get their lives back in order and become productive citizens without putting anyone else in jeopardy. I am hopeful and confident that this has become a winning situation for Wichita.

The Wichita Day Reporting Center is a great example of what a difference bringing all parties to the table to discuss needs and concerns can have on the outcome of a contentious issue. I hope that we can all continue to work together to resolve our difference in a like manner in 2003.

HAPPY NEW YEAR,  
Sharon

## 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street West Storm Sewer Outfall Project

The first phase of a nearly fifty million dollar project to build three new storm sewer outlets to help alleviate flooding in the area bounded by the Arkansas River on the east, Kellogg on the south, the Big Ditch on the West, and Zoo Boulevard



*It is estimated that this route will save approximately \$1,000,000*

and Central on the north has been approved by the City Council. The consultants who have been studying the issue for several years brought two possible routes to the Sunflower Neighborhood Association and to both the District IV

and District VI Advisory Boards. The route that was approved by both DABs and the council will put the new drainage line along 1<sup>st</sup> Street. The council's action authorized funds to cover both design and right-of-way needs. It is estimated that this route will save approximately \$1,000,000 over going along 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and will accomplish the same results in improved drainage.

## Farm and Art Market to Become New Home for Museum

The Museum of Ancient Treasures, which is currently located on the lower floor of the old Holiday Inn building, will be the new occupant of the Farm and Art building in Old Town starting this spring. They will be leasing the building from the city. The plaza to the north of the building will still be used by the city for public events and will be available to groups as it has been in the past.

The museum has thirty different collections from thirty states. The first floor will house dinosaurs and ancient history, the Egyptian, Roman, Greek, African, and other treasures. The second floor will house the History of Wars and will include artifacts, life-sized displays, and the Royal Collection. The third floor will be educational and include hands-on items.

The museum should bring many people to Old Town, which will be good for all of the other businesses located in the vicinity. They will be part of the Old Town parking overlay district and will share parking with all of the other businesses in the area.

Some of the stores will be going out of business and others will become Internet shopping sites. Several of the stores that are currently housed in the building, however, will be moving to other locations in Old Town. The Wichita Downtown Development Corporation is working with them and providing incentives to keep



## Revision of City Council District Boundary Lines

On December 17, 2002, the City Council approved new boundary lines for the six districts. This is a process that has to be done after every census or when the numbers for districts are more than 5% of the average size (total population divided by six). The average size that was used was 59,215 persons per district. The only change to the 6<sup>th</sup> District is that it grew to the west south of Douglas taking in more of the Sunflower neighborhood. It is really great to be able to represent a larger part of an active, involved neighborhood and I look forward to their active involvement in District VI.



## Dog License Fees

The license fee for keeping a dog has been increased to \$12.00 for each dog. There will be an additional \$5.00 charge for each non-spayed or neutered dog, and an additional \$10.00 charge if the owner's dwelling does not have a fenced yard or fenced run that will adequately confine the dog. This is the first time fees have been raised since 1991.

## Celebrate Safely

The following statistics have been received regarding gunshots and firecracker calls to the police between 6:00pm 12-31-02 and 6:00 am 1-01-03: Check shots – 48 calls  
Firecracker calls with contacts – 8 calls  
Firecracker calls with no contacts – 3 calls. A total of 89 calls were recorded. These small numbers are encouraging and give us a foundation to improve from for 2003/2004.

**Congratulations to the Celebrate Safely group!**



## 2002 Downtown Economic Progress

The results of the economic data that has been compiled by the Wichita Downtown Development Corporation showed that Wichita had an amazing year in 2002: 33 net new businesses, 284 net new jobs and almost \$60 million in new real estate investment! The numbers show that Downtown experienced a tremendous year in 2002.

## Neighborhood Matching Grants Awarded in 2002

**Moorings HOA:** submittal for \$1000 for July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks **Money was returned to District VI Grant monies.**

**Sherwood Glen:** \$2500.00 for the request of walkway/bike path enhancements.

**Orchard Park:** \$ 900.00 for production and delivery of the Orchard Park Newsletter

**Sherwood Glen:** \$868.00 for Portable Public Address System

**La Placita Park:** \$ 125.00 for annual National Night Out Neighborhood Celebration

**Historic Midtown Citizens Association:** \$2982.50 for four park enhancements in the Historic Midtown Neighborhood.

**Mid-America All Indian Center, Inc.:** B.E. A. T. \$2000.00 Outdoor/Indoor Activity program.

**Emerson Parent Teacher Organization:** \$2000.00 for Emerson School Playground Equipment.

**Sherwood Glen:** \$1000.00 for Pedestrian Bridge.

**Historic Midtown Citizens Association:** \$1125.00 Celebrate Safely Education Campaign



### Final Housekeeping & Home Maintenance Class Approaches

This will be the last of our latest round of classes offered to Housing Services clients before the Spring. Topics covered will include cleaning house on a tight budget, reducing clutter in the home, laundry tips, time management, record keeping, sharing the household responsibilities and many more.

**February 28, (Friday) 2:00 p.m.**  
**Evergreen Neighborhood City Hall**  
 2700 N. Woodland Suite D

To attend the FREE class, give our department a call at 268-4688. Please leave your name, address and phone number, and let us know the name and date of the class you're attending.



### HOMEownership Program

The number of first-time homebuyers that have been assisted by the Housing Services Department since July 1, 2002 already exceeds the number assisted during the entire previous program year. As of October 31st, thirty-one new homebuyers closed on homes in targeted areas of Wichita.

The increase in activity is credited to actions taken by the City Council over the past year that have included an increased target area for homeownership; increasing the amount of the assistance that can be utilized as down payment; and the approval of various projects by non-profits that have increased the stock of new or rehabilitated projects within the homeownership area.

All of these actions combined have had a great impact on increasing homeownership in older neighborhoods of Wichita. The demand for the down payment assistance was recently addressed by the City Council through the approval to allocate more HOME funds for the homeownership program.

### Park News



Janet Miller, District VI Park Board representative, sent the following synopsis from the Park Board:

- The parks received \$320,000 in CDBG monies this next year. That will allow 3 more playgrounds to be updated than originally planned. It will also cover new roofs, heating/cooling improvements and a few parking enhancements at some park facilities.
- The request for bids has been issued on the Riverside Park work.
- A handicap ramp is presently being installed at Park Villa.
- A naming committee will need to be appointed some time soon to come up with a name for the small park that we're getting from the old Griffenstein school site. We're now getting deed to only two acres there rather than all four because of the wording of the original land donation to the school system.

## Adult Soccer Fields have a New



a better site a better choice for the city and for the players.

Wichita's newest adult soccer fields will be built on the east side of Ohio between 29<sup>th</sup> and 37<sup>th</sup> Streets North. Originally they were slated to be built at approximately that same

location only on the west side of Ohio. The addition

of a cement plant to the south of that location, the possible addition of a rock crushing operation also to the south, and the lack of space on which to place parking made moving the fields to a better site a better choice for the city and for the players.

Funds for relocating the soccer fields were available from other **6th District Capital Improvement Projects (CIP)** for which the money was not needed.

## Goolsby Property

On January 17, 2003, the Kansas Court of Appeals ruled in favor of the City of Wichita in the City's case against James Goolsby. The Court upheld the conviction of Goolsby for failure to screen the property across from Exploration Place. For years the City has asked Goolsby to clean up this property or to screen the items from view both of which he refused to do.

The charge issued on March 16, 2001, was tried in Municipal Court and received a conviction that was appealed to District Court. Goolsby was sentenced to a controlling jail term of three months, and a \$150.00 fine. He was placed on probation for one year, was ordered to comply with the Uniform Zoning Code, and ordered to screen the property within the first three months of probation. The conviction was then appealed to the Kansas Court of Appeals. The ruling upholding the conviction was a unanimous decision of the panel.



In 2003, the City of Wichita will once again provide space to the IRS for their **EITC (Earned Income Tax Credit) tax-assistance program**. The IRS will have staff in the offices of the four Neighborhood City Halls, beginning Tuesday, February 4 through April 15, 2003. All

**Neighborhood City Halls** are open from Monday-Friday 9-7 and on Saturdays from 9-noon.

The tax assistance program is available **free of charge** to low income citizens who meet the income guidelines. Call the following numbers for more information.

Atwater: 303-8017

Colvin: 303-8029

Stanley/Aley: 303-8007



## Traffic Issues in the District

Concerned groups, citizens, the District Advisory Board and the city's Traffic Engineer, have recently discussed several traffic issues in the 6th District. The following recommendations were discussed and approved:

**23<sup>rd</sup> and Market:** Red flags will be placed on top of the stop signs at the intersection. Intersection on-street parking prohibitions along the 23<sup>rd</sup> Street and Market Street approaches will be implemented. This should improve the sight distance for motorists on 23<sup>rd</sup> Street who must yield to oncoming traffic. It should also enhance sight visibility of pedestrians who are crossing at the intersection to attend church or for other reasons. Staff will also continue to monitor the traffic accident experience at the 23<sup>rd</sup>/Market intersection to determine the need for further traffic/parking measures that would improve safety.

**Park Place and 17<sup>th</sup>:** New "Stop Ahead" signs, larger stop signs, and red flags on the stop signs were placed last summer. Chevrons were also placed and trees planted along the curve on Park Place just south of 17<sup>th</sup>. Speed limit signs between 21<sup>st</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> will be upgraded. The police department will be monitoring the speed in the area.

**20<sup>th</sup> and Fairview:** The yield signs at this intersection have been replaced with stop signs. Yield signs were also replaced with stop signs at 19<sup>th</sup> and Fairview.

**Westdale:** Westdale will soon be closed for the water line installation. Long term plans, however, are to reopen it when the installation is complete. There are no plans to permanently close this street. Some signal changes have been implemented at the Westdale/Zoo Blvd. Intersection to help with traffic control.

**Hyacinth:** The Benjamin Hills' neighborhood requested and the DAB 6 recommended to staff that a stop sign be installed at the corner of Hyacinth and Columbine. "Stop Ahead" signs will be placed on the curve north of the intersection. It is the hope of the neighborhood that this will limit drivers speeding through this residential area when going between 25<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> Streets on Hyacinth.

**Halstead and 25<sup>th</sup>:** Flashing beacons will be placed at this intersection to alert drivers of the unusual conditions caused by the skewed Halstead approaches that require motorists to view oncoming traffic at sharp angles.

**Arkansas and 37<sup>th</sup> Street:** A flashing beacon will be installed at this intersection because of the moderate accident rate and the visibility limitations to the north caused by the Chisholm Creek embankment structure constructed near the street.

**Arkansas from 46<sup>th</sup> to 53<sup>rd</sup> Street:** The speed limit along this stretch of road will be increased to 40 mph. Staff deems this to be more appropriate due to the rural nature of that section of Arkansas Avenue. It is also one of the few outlying street sections in the community that had a 35 mph speed limit. Most other two-lane collector/arterial streets extended in the rural areas have either 40 or 45 mph speed limits.